

In order to accomplish the above object, the present invention provides a sample processing container which includes: a container body having an accommodating part for accommodating a sample therein, a front engagement part arranged at a front of the accommodating part and a rear engagement part arranged at a rear of the accommodating part; and a lid body whereas at least a part thereof is curved, the lid body having a front side and a rear side, the rear side of the lid body being provided with a ~~rear~~ front engagement member which is engageable with the rear engagement part of the container body and the front side of the lid body being provided with a rear engagement member which is engageable with the front engagement part of the container body; wherein engagement of the front and rear engagement members of the lid body with the front and rear engagement parts of the container body respectively allows the lid body to be fitted to the container body and causes the lid body to be elastically deformed into either a plane state or a reduced-curved state in which a degree of curvature of the lid body is reduced; and wherein releasing the engagement of the front engagement member of the lid body with the front engagement part of the container body allows the lid body to be restored elastically, so that the front side of the lid body is separated from the container body.

As shown in Fig. 2, on the under face of the base part 210, a square bracket-shaped projection 213 is formed to project downward. Further, each of the first movable parts 220 has a projection 226 formed on its under face to project downward and also extend in the left-and-right direction. The projection 213 abuts against the respective inner faces of the sidewalls 111, 111 and the rear wall 113 of the container body 100, while the projections 226 abuts against the inner face of the front wall 112 of the container body 100, accomplishing the positioning of the lid body 200 to the container body 100. The projection 213 further functions as rib to improve

the rigidity of the base part 210. The projections 213, ~~233~~26 may be altered with regard to their configuration and position providing that they can effect functions similar to those of this embodiment.

The operation to detach the lid body 200 from the container body 100 will be described. First, the top of the second movable part 230 at the front end is depressed by tweezers or the like [see arrow of Fig. 5(b)]. During the descent of the projection 231 of the second movable part 230, the slant face 232 at the front of the projection 231 comes into contact with the top of the front engagement member 1301 (i.e. the engagement claw 132 in the embodiment) of the container body 100 thereby to bend the member 131 elastically while moving the top of the member 131, that is, the engagement claw 132 forward [see Fig. 5(b)].

It should be noted that, although the drawings of this embodiment illustrate the structure where the front engagement part 131 of the container body 100 is displaced by the butting of the projection 231 of the second movable part 230 against only the front engagement member 131, the present invention is not limited to this arrangement. Thus, in the modification, the projection 231 may be formed so as to move the front engagement member 131 while butting not only the member 131 but also the front wall 112. Then, the projection 231 operates as a wedge for expanding the gap 1313.

When the engaging operation is completed, the top wall 301 of the ~~container~~lid body 300 forming the movable parts 330 becomes substantially flat, so that the immovable parts 320 and the movable part 330 are generally overlapped with each other in a view of the left-and-right

direction. In other words, the portions of the immovable and movable parts 320, 330 formed by the top wall 301 are substantially included in an identical plane. Then, the lid body 200300 is turned to be a box whose lower side is opened, performing the function as the lid for concealing the upside of the accommodating part 110 of the container body 100.

With this movement, there is simultaneously released the engagement between the immovable parts 320 and the front engagement members 131 of the container body 100. As a result, since the top wall 301 forming the movable part 330 intends to be restored by its elasticity, the tips of the immovable parts 320 are separated from the container body 100 to the semi-opening position. Under this situation, it is possible to greatly open the lid body 300 by pinching the tabs 225 of the immovable parts 320 by means of tweezers or the like. By continuously withdrawing the rear engagement members 211 of the lid body 300 out of the opening 124 of the container body 100 while taking the tabs 225 between the tweezers, it allows the lid body 200300 to be separated from the container body 100 perfectly.

In this state, when the lid body 200A is mounted on the top face of the container body 100A, then the rear part of the lid body 200A (corresponding to the base part 210 of the first embodiment) becomes parallel with the opening face of the container body 100A thereby to cover the upside of the accommodating part 110 of the container body 100A. Then, there is established the so-called "semi-opening" condition where the front part of the lid body 200A is apart from the container body 100A (i.e. the front engagement member 131).

Next, the top face of the front end of the lid body 200A is depressed by tweezers, fingers or the like. Consequently, the respective engagement claws 222 of the front engagement members 221 enter into the gap 133 while their slant faces 222a urge the front engagement member 130A forward. After insertion of the claws 222, the front engagement member 131A recover elastically, whereby the respective engagement claws 222 of the front engagement members 221 are engaged in the openings 141 of the front engagement member 131. Note, the under face of the lid body 200A at the front end and the rear faces of the front engagement members 221 are respectively supported by the front wall 112 of the accommodating part 110 of the container body 100A.